

June 30, 1950 - Friday

Subject: ~~Summary~~ Teleconference with MacArthur, 300740Z (3:40 A.M., E.D.T.)

The reference messages were MacArthur's 300250Z and the JCS 292259Z.

Those present in Washington included Collins (The senior one present), Gruenther, Dean Rusk, and various staff officials. MacArthur was on the Tokyo end with seven staff officers.



Collins began the conference by stating that the authorization proposed in MacArthur's 300250Z would require Presidential decision "which will take several hours for consideration. Meanwhile, you are authorized . . . to move one RCT immediately to Fusan base area." (Collins referred to paragraph 2b of JCS 292259Z).

Collins continued "I was present at White House conference late afternoon June 29 when decision was made by the President to authorize action covered in JCS 84681 (292259Z). Tenor of decision clearly indicated to me that the President would wish carefully to consider with his top advisors before authorizing introduction of American combat forces into battle area."

Collins then asked if the authorization just given him in accordance with JCS 292259Z would permit the initiation of movement. Prior to the time the movement would be completed, Collins said, a definite decision would be available. He asked if this would meet MacArthur's requirement for the present.

MacArthur replied: "Your authorization, while establishing basic principle that United States ground combat troops may be used in Korea does not give sufficient latitude for efficient operation in present situation. It does not satisfy the basic requirements contained in my message C56942 (3002502). Time is of the essence and a clear-cut decision without delay is imperative."



Collins proceeded to ask a series of questions about whether MacArthur's air force had carried out any operations north of the 38th Parallel after receiving JCS 84681 (292259) and what were the results. MacArthur said some strikes had been made on North Korean airfields; results reported good but no details available yet.

Collins asked various other questions on combat operations and then said "I will proceed immediately through the Secretary of Army to request Presidential approval your proposal to move RCT into forward combat area. Will advise you as soon as possible, perhaps within half hour."

At the very end of the conference, the following exchange occurred. Collins said "Your recommendation to move one RCT to combat area is approved. You will be advised later as to further build-up."

MacArthur acknowledged this and asked if there was anything further, to which Collins said "Everyone here delighted your prompt action in personally securing first-hand view of situation. Congratulations and best wishes. We all have full confidence in you and your command. Nothing further here."

Source: White House files.